

VOICE OF YOUTH: INSECTS AND MAN

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VOICE OF YOUTH

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INSECTS AND MAN

BY MILOS STEHLIK JR.

[Farragut, Sophomore]

An insect usually is regarded as something terrifying which does a lot of harm—something the world could very well eliminate from its surface.

However, when a person explores the magnificent splendors of the insect kingdom, he learns to accept an insect as an understandable and marvelous structure, with ability to survive in unfavorable conditions with the minimum of protection, and with the ability to adapt to its relatives and environment.

The relationship between animals is a basic plan of life; one thing links onto another to form a complete cycle. Thus, if there were no birds, there would be an overpopulation of insects. Likewise, if there were no animals, the bird population would increase greatly. On the contrary, if there were fewer insects, there would be fewer birds and fewer animals and, therefore, man would have less food. In this way, we find ourselves dependent upon insects.

Of all the 500,000 insect species believed to exist, only a few hundred are harmful. The 300 billion world population harbors many people harmful to some of their own species. If an insect causes harm it is because the particular thing destroyed in his food. He cannot survive if he does not destroy the item. But if man's safety is threatened, he has the power and intellect to create means which will help him to live.

Mankind can learn the basic rules of democracy from a common insect. In a beehive, there is consideration for each other; all work for the one good cause—the building of the colony. The ant, too, is concerned for his neighbor, and if problems are too much for him to handle, he summons others for help. In such a complete democracy, all are considered equal. They work equally, they share food equally, and they enjoy the pleasures of life equally.

Thru observing the life histories, nature and problems of insects, man can find many established principles to follow in making his world a much better and happier place to live.

Milos Stehlík Jr., 15, has been in America two years, coming from his native Czechoslovakia by way of a ten-month sojourn in Australia. He is a Top Hatter, with a straight "S" average, honor student, and in honors classes in Farragut High school, 2345 S. Christiana av. He is on the staff of *Horizon*, literary magazine, and a member of Future Scientists of America. Stehlík hopes for a career as a scientist.

Voice of Youth Entry

The manuscript being submitted to the Voice of Youth in The Chicago Tribune is my work and is submitted under the conditions announced for the program.

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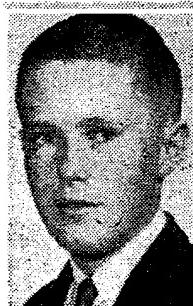
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